



English School Board Elections postponed



JUDY KELLEY



LORI MORRISON

English-speaking Montrealers will not be going to the polls on November 1, 2020. School Board elections have been postponed as a result of the escalating situation with COVID-19. That said, not many seats remain to be filled.

Ten of the eleven available seats on the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) have been filled by acclamation. Only the English-speaking voters in [Ward 3](#) will go to the polls when a new date is decided.

Nominations to the Council of Commissioners of the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) closed at 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, 2020. Among the nine seats acclaimed is the 2019 SPS Community Award Winner, Lori Morrison for Electoral Division 1. Elections will take place for Commissioners in Electoral Divisions 2, 3 and 4 as well as for Chair of the Lester B. Pearson School

Board when public health gives the all-clear.

Retired teacher, Judy Kelley, wife of former West Island MNA, Geoffrey Kelley and mother of Gregory Kelley, MNA for Jacques-Cartier is running for Chair of Council for the [LBPSB](#) against Chris Eustace, retired teacher and grandfather of eight.

All nine commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board have been elected by acclamation. The only position voters will decide on polling day is the chair of the SWLSB.

In the prevailing conditions of the current pandemic, candidates are to be commended for gathering nomination signatures and voters are encouraged to exercise their duty on polling day, when it is eventually rescheduled.

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

By Christie Brown, President, SPS

Thanksgiving is normally a time spent celebrating with family and friends. It's a highly anticipated long weekend with many meals, and even more laughs, surrounded by those we are most thankful to have in our lives. This Thanksgiving will certainly be different for my family, as I am sure it will be in yours. How many of you have already started to search for "leftover-turkey-recipes" knowing that there will be massive amounts to work with? The comfort of this scaled-down Thanksgiving, is that we are all living in this same bizarre reality that we continue to find ourselves in. Despite the "Red Zone" restrictions imposed upon us, six months after this pandemic hit Montreal, I remain very thankful, not just for friends and family, but for being part of this wonderful community. The Montreal Irish Community continues to demonstrate kindness and support to all those who need it - even if it's just to have a bit of "cheering up".

The St. Patrick's Society Board of Directors has continued to manage the organization from afar. We have become professional Zoomers, and we are now preparing for a virtual AGM in late November. Needless to say, the status of our events in 2021 remains uncertain. We are still brainstorming how our events could be modified, and come up with completely new ones. As the days and months go by, we keep hoping that an end will come into sight. So far, no such luck.

That said, given the experience of this past summer, we are confident that we will be able to host the 25th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Society Golf Tournament on June 15th 2021. We already have some ideas on how to adapt the tournament to ensure it is "covid-free", even if the socializing needs to be done at a distance. In addition, we have several ideas for outdoor events that we would like to host should we be permitted to gather closer to the Christmas Season. We have begun working on "Plan B" should we not be able to host our events in person in the 2021 Green Season. So, stay tuned!

In other news, [Katie Irving](#) has returned from her maternity leave as office manager (and will work primarily from home). Welcome Back Katie! Thank you, thank you, thank you to [Robin Brodrick](#) for her incredible work over the last year. She came on board and worked extremely hard to keep us on track despite these extremely challenging circumstances.... Robin, I know that you will continue to do amazing things with us, and that this is just the beginning of a long lasting relationship with St. Patrick's Society. You're a gem. I'm so sorry that you had to live through this pandemic with us. The last several months have been so anti-climactic after many months of planning exciting events with you.

Just like that, two years have already passed even though I feel like they have just begun. It is hard to believe that it is time for the next President to take over the Chair, just as I was getting comfortable! I have sincerely had the time of my life

as your President, even through the challenges. Thank you for the well wishes, and the confidence you bestowed on me to lead this wonderful organization. I am so proud to have been able to represent you. That said, it is a strange feeling to become the Past-President in the middle of a pandemic, and I have many feelings of "unfinished business". I'm glad that I will be able to channel this extra energy while supporting the next President, after the AGM in November. Thank you to all who have served on the Board - during my term, and the many years before. Our goal to serve the Montreal-Irish Community is more important now than it has been in quite some time. The St. Patrick's Society's mission to help others, to support education and to celebrate our culture is needed now more than ever. I intend to be there to help facilitate our mission for many Presidents to come.

I would also like to send special thanks to [Martina Branagan](#), [Dave Dubeau](#), [Geoff Kelley](#), [Maureen McCormick](#), and [Ken Quinn](#) for taking the time to produce all the editions of Nuacht. I wish that we had more event recaps for you to read about this issue, but let's hope they will come back sooner rather than later.

Best wishes for good health and many thanks for all that you do to help support those around you on a daily basis. I still have hope that we will see each other in person someday soon, but for now, see you on Zoom.

Ever thankful,

Christie
#Still-Irishing
October 2020

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REFLECTING ON COVID-19

By President Michael D. Higgins, Áras an Uachtaráin, [September 9, 2020](#)

A Chairde,

As we approach the end of six months of our shared struggle with the virus COVID-19, it is appropriate, perhaps, to make a reflection. Such a reflection should help us in our determination to continue our efforts of prevention, to take care, prevail with our health protected and the essentials of our social and economic interactions recovered with the minimum of risk.

Beidh a leithead cabhrach leis an lá a thabhairt linn i gcoinne an víris, ceapaim.

I believe that we must now, with our schools re-opened, muster a fresh determination to give our efforts, as the late John B. Keane might put it, 'our almighty best.'

I suggest we do so on the basis of [Good Citizenship](#). Yes, one's personal health is more secure when there is a good following of the public health advice, but making the effort is an achievement that goes beyond the self in the protection of others. Following the guidelines and the advice is, fundamentally, an act of Good Citizenship. I believe that the principles that might serve as guide in our renewed commitment can be based on some fundamental values that represent the best of ourselves, such as [Solidarity](#), [Care](#), [Compassion](#) and [Kindness](#).

We must, it goes without saying, continue to share the grief of those who have lost loved ones. We must share, too, the distress of those whose lives and livelihoods have been changed, and address the loneliness being experienced by those who have been cut off from contact with those who previously sustained them. We must acknowledge and address the loss of the social, economic and recreational practices that were their links to life.

As a sociologist, I am frankly disappointed at the scant references that have been in the discourse to what is known, from research in social studies, on inter-relationships of both the young and the not so young, the aging, the aged and the many who do not fit neatly into these categories. It is that valuable knowledge, for example, in social gerontology that can enable fine lines, as well as broad brushstrokes, to be drawn in terms of policy, understanding, and language.

I have mentioned [Solidarity](#) as an essential value guiding us as we proceed. We must acknowledge that breaches of solidarity damage, and have damaged, social cohesion in combatting COVID, but our righteous concerns must not be allowed to dislodge us from our common purpose – that of, by following the advice in relation to public health which we are determined to do out of good citizenship, we will, together, suppress the virus.

Invoking Solidarity requires of us, of course, an understanding of the different kinds of vulnerability

that there are, the differences, too, in capacities and circumstances. Understanding this is what enables the fine lines that might accompany the broad brushstrokes of the measures we are taking, to be drawn – drawn with sensitivity, as well as with risk taken into account.

I mention [Care](#). The transition to a post-Covid economy must be to an economy and society that has Care as a central purpose. 'Care' means we need to accept that, in their implementation, all of the necessary proposals will fall on those of differing capacities and resources.

'[Compassion](#)', I suggest, must be discernible in language as well as actions. The significance of small, low risk, gestures and processes that are part of the interactions of living for those in different categories needs to be recognised and respected, for example, intimacies in the process of grieving or healing. Our citizens must be empowered and encouraged to see themselves strengthened by placing themselves in the space of the vulnerability of each other.

'[Kindness](#)' is precious. What we communicate with each other, and how, must not be in any form of cold language that invokes fear, but rather one that conveys a warmth, one that reflects a shared concern for us all living and working together as citizens, seeking to exercise our responsibilities stretched to the best of our capacity from an ethic of Good Citizenship.

Being effective together on this project of defeating COVID-19, as it impinges on our lives, requires positive commitments from us all and we need to speak and encourage each other to have a vision of the light that will surely come from all of our efforts when renewed and redoubled.

While the rehearsal of Doomsday might have been useful perhaps, on occasion, in other circumstances, it is insufficient and mostly unhelpful in our present circumstances. Rather, we must encourage each other and draw strength from that.

Agus, ná bhfuil sé fíor gurb í an gníomh is mó is féidir linn a dhéanamh, chun ár mbuíochas a chur in iúl le daíreacas, do na hoibrithe go léir, atá ag dul i mbaol ar ár son gach lá agus oíche sna seirbhísí riachtanacha, ná ár n-iarrachtaí a mhéadú agus a threisiú chun an virus a sheachaint.

[Let us all agree that the greatest act of appreciation we can show towards all those workers taking risks on our behalf in essential services, day and night, is to redouble our efforts to avoid infection.](#)

Let's do that together. Déanaimis é.

Míle buíochas, Thank you all.
Is beir beannacht.



St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

FOUNDED 1834



August 21, 2020

To: The Members of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

Re: Report of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with Section 2 of Article 6 of the By-Laws of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, the designated chair of the Nominating committee, Scott Phelan, convened and chaired a meeting of the committee consisting of the following members: Lynn Doyle, Paul Dunne, James Gallagher, Mary Jeanne Phelan and Peter Shea. The committee hereby nominates the following 25 individuals, (each of whom has consented to his or her nomination) for the offices set forth below across from their respective names for the term of office beginning at the next annual meeting of the members of the Society.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Christie Brown

Vice-Presidents

Carol McCormick

Ken Quinn

Patrick Short

Treasurer

Andrea Bobkowicz

Secretary

Christopher Deehy

Immediate Past-president

Scott Phelan

Board of Directors

Martina Branagan

Kevin Callahan

Paul Doyle

David Dubeau

Mark Gallagher

Louise Guimond

William Hurley

Jim Kearney

Geoff Kelley

Paul Loftus

Brian Marcil

Maureen McCormick

Mary McGovern

Pamela McGovern

Caitlin Moynan

Kevin Murphy

Andrea Stanford

Danny Zangwill

Admin Assistant

Robin Brodrick

President: Ken Quinn

Vice-Presidents: Christopher Deehy
Carol McCormick
Patrick Short

Treasurer: Pamela McGovern

Secretary: Louise Guimond

Immediate Past-President: Christie Brown

Non-Officer Directors: Martina Branagan
Kevin Callahan
Paul Doyle
David Dubeau
Mark Gallagher
William Hurley
Thomas Ireland
Jim Kearney
Geoffrey Kelley
Paul Loftus
Brian Marcil
Maureen McCormick
Mary McGovern
Laurie McKeown-Thomassin
Caitlin Moynan
Catherine Polson
Andrea Stanford
Dan Zangwill

The above constitutes the report of the Nominating Committee. According to the By-Laws of the Society, the report of the Nominating Committee must be delivered to all members of the Society. This is being done via this letter, inclusion of the report will be in the next issue of *Nuacht*, the Society's newsletter, and by entry on the News' section of our website: www.spsmtl.com

Any Regular Member or Life Member in good standing may nominate himself or herself or another Regular Member or Life Member for any of the elected offices of the Society set forth above. All such nominations must:


- (a) Be in writing
- (b) Be signed by the nominator and by 5 other Regular Members or Life Members
- (c) Include an indication of the consent of the nominee, and
- (d) Be received **by the Secretary no later than 14 days prior to November 24th, 2020.**

Christopher Deehy
Secretary
St. Patrick's Society of Montreal
6767 Côte St. Luc Road, Suite 001
Montréal, QC H4V 2Z6

Or a scan by e-mail to office@spsmtl.com

We look forward to your attendance at the annual meeting of the members on November 24th, 2020. On account of the current restrictions regarding gatherings, the AGM will likely be conducted remotely. We will provide you with call-in information shortly.

Sincerely,



Christopher Deehy
Secretary

SPS Committee and Event Chairs

Charity Ball	Brian Marcil
Charity Luncheon	Pamela McGovern
Governance and protocol	Christopher Deehy
Investment Committee	Paul Doyle
Golf Committee	Dave Dubeau
Charitable Giving & Sponsorship Committee	Andrea Bobkowicz
Membership Committee	Ken Quinn
Nominating Committee	Scott Phelan
Strategic Planning	Vacant
Youth Wing	Caitlin Moynan

Advertising Rates for Nuacht

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Card size	\$75	\$200	\$100
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1/3 page	\$200	\$500	\$300
1/2 page	\$250	\$700	\$300

All submissions are to be forwarded directly to our editor, Martina Branagan at nuacht@spsmtl.com

The deadlines for submissions are usually: September 15th, November 15th, January 15th and May 15th.

Rates do not include layout or art. Please submit all art work in JPEG/PDF, sized accordingly. Rates do not include GST and PST, if applicable.

Thank you to our committee chairs for all your hard work and dedication to the society.

COURT RULING UPHOLDS ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS... FOR NOW

By Geoffrey Kelley

On Thursday, September 17, the Quebec Court of Appeal ruled that the decision to delay the implementation of Bill 40 on the English school sector will be maintained. In practical terms, this means that the English school boards will remain in place until the Quebec Superior Court hears the case on its merits. No date has been fixed for those hearings.

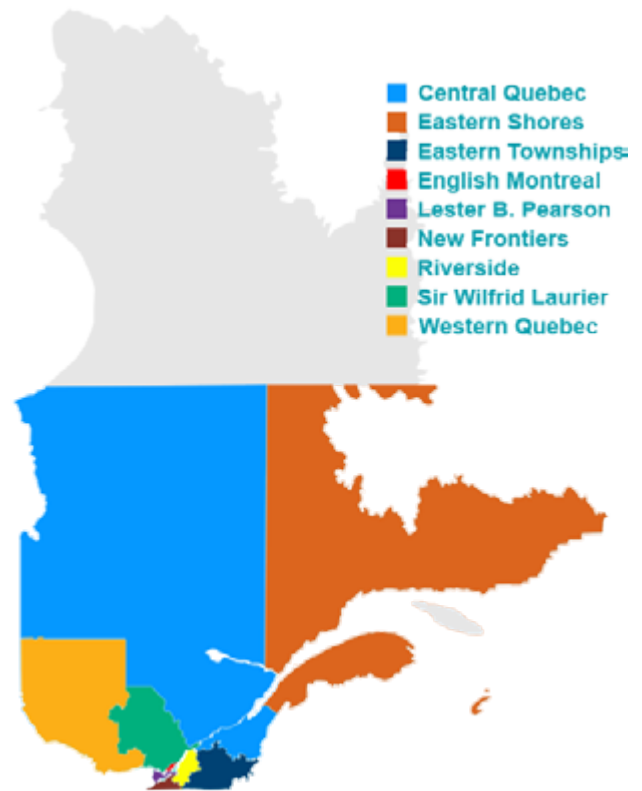


This delay, or stay, was granted because the courts felt that proceeding now would do irreparable harm to the school boards should they win the case which is based on the constitutional rights of the official language minorities across Canada. The judges at both the Superior Court and the Court of Appeal recognized that important minority rights were at risk because of Bill 40. The Court of Appeal was categorical: "The replacement of English school boards by the school service centres...constitutes (a) a significant transfer of the power of management and control over the English language minority's educational system to the Minister and to the employees of the future school centres, and (b) major restrictions on the candidacy of a significant segment of s.23 rights holders for election to the boards of directors of the new school service centres." (Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the minority educational rights). In the short term, the most important consequence is that there will be school board elections at some future date, once COVID restrictions have been lifted. The courts have protected our rights for now, although the legal battle is far from over. Now we need members of the English-speaking community to exercise those rights! In the past, turnout has been disappointing in school board elections. Holding an election in a pandemic is another deterrent. But I would urge everyone to get involved. How?

The deadline for becoming a candidate was September

27. Find out who is running in your local ward, and for school board chair, if not already acclaimed. Your local school board website has brief bios of each candidate.

Second, you must make sure that you are on the school board electoral list. The procedures for checking are to be determined, but parents who have children in English public schools, graduates of the English public school system, and interested members of the English-speaking community are eligible. Make sure you have the [right to vote](#). If you have moved, or your name is not on the list, please contact your local [school board](#).



Finally, plan to vote, either on election day, or at the advance poll.

The principles in play are important. If you believe in local democracy, and want to have a say in the education of our children and grandchildren, get involved. If you believe we need a counterweight to defend our community's interests in Quebec City, get involved. Our schools are essential parts of our English-speaking community. School boards help to support them and their important work. So please support our school boards and go out and vote when the time comes!

BRITANNIA WAIVES THE RULES – GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT THREATENED IN NEW BREXIT CRISIS

By Kevin Callahan

The expression 'Perfidious Albion' has been a cliché for centuries and refers to the British government's long history of making and breaking treaties and promises. It seems that Boris Johnson and his advisors are determined to make the expression once again relevant by violating an international agreement signed a few months ago and consequently putting the Good Friday Agreement and Irish peace process at risk.

Last October, after intense and heated negotiations, the British government and the European Union signed the Northern Ireland protocol as part of the withdrawal agreement that saw the UK leave the EU on 31 January 2020. Under the protocol, Northern Ireland will continue to enforce the EU's customs rules and follow its rules on product standards so that checks on goods travelling from Northern Ireland (a non-EU country) into the Republic of Ireland (an EU country) are unnecessary. This protocol was crucial to ensuring that there would be no hard border in Ireland between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It is important to understand that Boris Johnson both negotiated this agreement and touted it as a success in his successful election campaign in November 2019.

On September 9th, dissatisfied with the pace of negotiations with the EU and in a move seen as a step towards a 'hard Brexit', the Johnson government released its Internal Market Bill, which contains measures that seek to overrule parts of the withdrawal agreement signed with the EU last year. In other words, Johnson is ready to violate a treaty he negotiated and signed to try to pressure the EU to acquiesce to his demands. In a rather staggering admission, the Northern Ireland secretary, Brandon Lewis told the House of Commons: "Yes, this does break international law in a very specific and limited way." Boris Johnson claimed that he had not understood certain aspects of the protocol even though he negotiated it. The UK's top legal civil servant Jonathan

Jones resigned apparently in disgust at this disrespect for the rule of law and international cooperation. The Irish government, which had been instrumental in getting the protocol signed last year, expressed its dismay and said that Britain risks losing the trust of the EU in future negotiations.

The breathtaking arrogance of this move brought a swift reaction from the United States as Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi warned there will be "absolutely no chance" of a trade deal with

Washington passing Congress should the British violate the Brexit withdrawal agreement. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden was categorical. "We can't allow the Good Friday agreement

that brought peace to Northern Ireland to become a casualty of Brexit." "Any trade deal between the US and UK must be contingent upon respect for the agreement and preventing the return of a hard border. Period."

This brought a chorus of criticism from British Tories, who, without any trace of irony, accused Biden of being ignorant about Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement. In fact, Biden, who has Irish roots, has long followed and supported the Irish peace process.

The British government's cavalier attitude to the rule of law is deeply disturbing and may make the Johnson government an international pariah. It also highlights the contradiction of Brexit in terms of the Irish border and peace process. The argument for Irish unity as the solution to the Brexit conundrum is becoming stronger and gaining increasing support. There is a growing call for a vote on Irish unity as provided for by the Good Friday Agreement. Ironically, Britain's headlong drive to leave the EU may provoke the breakup of the United Kingdom and help bring about a united Ireland.



NINETY YEARS YOUNG!

By Carol McCormick

The heading is somewhat a cliché but when it refers to our own Paul Doyle, it is true. I was taken aback at a recent St. Patrick's Society of Montreal Executive Board meeting when he announced that he had celebrated his 90th birthday in the last while.

Sure, we hear more and more these days about people celebrating their 90th, even 100th birthday. However, few are still as active and involved in community work as Paul is. That is probably why I as well as others could not believe his declaration. We may all have been guilty of taking for granted Paul's longevity.

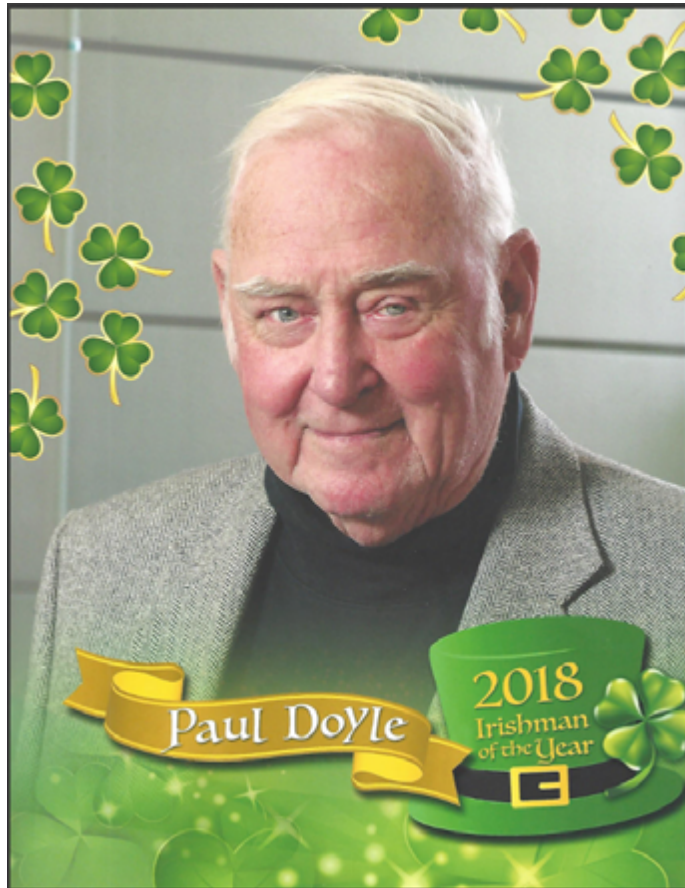
So, I felt it was important to share this momentous occasion with the readers of NUA^{CH}T not just to wish Paul well but also to talk about Paul and travel his path of life through the 90 years.

Paul was born in Montreal on September 3rd, 1930. Paul did not know then he was embarking on a road of wealth in education, sports, community involvement and most importantly to sharing it with Lynn, the love of his life now for fifty years and counting. The two have introduced the world to three beautiful children who in turn have continued the Doyle name by giving Paul and Lynn four grandchildren.

What has Paul been doing to make "time fly" for the past 90 years? I asked Paul some basic questions about where he was educated, his sports career and his involvement in community services but my last questions to him are the ones that will be the most beneficial to all of us.

Paul completed his elementary years at Lajoie Academy in Outremont, graduated from Catholic High School, received his Bachelor of Arts at Loyola College and his Teacher's Diploma B.Ed. at St. Joseph Teacher's College.

For many young men sports were the activities of the day. Paul was certainly no different. He began football in high school then followed through with Junior Football with NDG Maple Leafs and in 1953 played Senior Football with Lakeshore Flyers winning the Canadian Intermediate Championship. After that the pros looked at Paul and signed him up with the Saskatchewan Rough Riders for the 1954 CFL Season. Unfortunately, his pro life was cut short due of injuries.



This did not stop Paul from staying physically active. Though, none of these were at a competitive level, Paul continued to enjoy sailing, golfing, skiing and curling. Such an avid curling buff, Paul, for a time, served as President of the Montreal West Curling Club.

He began his professional life as a high school math teacher at Chomedey Catholic High School, moving up the ladder to Vice Principal and then Principal. A nine to five job was not satisfying enough for Paul in his endeavor to make a difference in education. He served twenty years as President of the North Shore Principals and sixteen years on the provincial body of QASA

(Quebec Association of School Administrators.) Spending fifty years investing in the stock market, Paul founded the Retired Principals Investment Club serving as the Chairperson for a number of years.

Moving on to community work, it is no wonder that Paul invested his time and energy in any way he could in community services. The closest to his heart was and still is St. Patrick Society of Montreal, serving over thirty years on the Board of Directors and as Vice President for a time. Paul founded one of the most important fund-raising events for St. Patrick's Society, the Annual Golf Tournament, which raises thousands of dollars for the Society's mandate of helping the community in charitable, educational and cultural needs. Paul

NONAGERIAN'S PEARLS OF WISDOM

Cont. from page 6

served as Chair for the first twenty-two years of this yearly "sell out" event.

It is no wonder that the Irish community, through the Erin Sports Club Association, honored Paul in 2018 as Irishman of the Year.

All of this, Paul has experienced in ninety years. I am sure, he himself cannot believe that all those years have gone by. I asked him the following questions that I hope can help each and everyone of us face our lives on this earth, make a difference and keep us going when we feel like giving up.



- Question: What would you say was the most important thing you learned from life?
- Paul: "Be persistent. Quitters never win and winners never quit."
- Question: What words of wisdom would you like to share with the readers?
- Paul: "Family, above all else."

So, there you have it from a nonagenarian who continues to make a difference in the world around him. Family and community benefit from this wonderful life's mission of an individual who always looks to where he can help and improve the lives of others.

Happy belated birthday Paul, from all of us. May you be blessed with many more years and continue your road with Lynn doing what you do best, helping others.

Lá Breithe Shona Duit!
Nócha bliain d'aois!
Comhghairdeas agus go mba
fada buan tú, a chara!

MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO CANADA

A chairde, dear members of the St Patrick's Society of Montreal,

I am delighted to have this opportunity of greeting you on my arrival as Ambassador-Designate of Ireland to Canada. Indeed, I look forward to an early opportunity to meet you in Montreal as circumstances allow.

Representing Ireland in Canada is an honour and a privilege. The depth of Irish heritage here, the contribution of the Irish to the development of Canada as a society and as state, the deep ties and vibrant relations today between Ireland and Canada provide a rich and enriching agenda for all of the team here at the Embassy and at the Consulate. Building on their great work, and that of my predecessors, I hope to enhance and expand our relations, culturally, socially, intellectually and economically.

In terms of my own background, I spent some twenty years on the Northern Ireland Peace Process and was proud to be a member of the Irish Government Talks Team that negotiated the Good Friday Agreement. I have served in Washington, New York, Seoul and Tel Aviv, the last two as Ambassador, and at various positions in Iveagh House, our headquarters.

You can tell from a glance at my website (www.eamonnmckee.com) that I have an interest in history and I look forward to understanding Canadian history and the role of the Irish in it during my time here.

I am particularly delighted to address such an august Society, with its own deep roots in history. For a society to be still going strong after 186 years is no mean feat, and you should be proud of all you have achieved. As members of the Society, you appreciate its heritage and its ongoing relevance. As with my predecessors, I believe that promoting the story of the Irish in Canada is the platform for its future vitality.

Of course, the story of the Irish in Montreal illustrates in a very fine way the nature of our relationship with Canada and with Quebec in particular. The solace, help and welcome afforded the Irish as they fled the Great Famine rightly stands testament to the heart and spirit of Canadians, Francophone and Anglophone alike. The fact that the shamrock appears in the flag of Montreal is testament to how the Irish were accepted into, and helped to build, this great city. Some years back, my wife and I visited Grosse Île to pay our respects to that heritage, to the Irish who died there, and to the Canadians whose response was not fear and revulsion but courage and compassion. It was a deeply moving experience.

As you know too, people-to-people contacts have increased enormously between Ireland and Canada in recent years, boosted by renewed Irish emigration here, including through the Working Holiday Visa scheme. These people-to-people contacts, including between both Governments, were expanded and deepened thanks to the effort of my immediate predecessor Jim, whom you know well, and the team at the Embassy.

Economic relations have also blossomed. CETA promises even greater advances as that Agreement beds in and its opportunities are seized. This will be vitally important work for both Canada and Ireland as we wrestle to bring about economic recovery in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well in these difficult times and to hope that you and your families stay safe and well.

Slán and bien cordialement!

Eamonn

Eamonn McKee
Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, Jamaica and The Bahamas

[Listen to an interview with Ireland's new Ambassador to Canada, Eamonn McKee \(On ICBA\)](#)

MARTIN GEOFFREY SHAW – SLÁN ABHAILE

By Vivian Doyle-Kelly

On September 18th we learned the very sad news of Martin Shaw's passing the previous day at the age of eighty-four (84) following a recent diagnosis with cancer. He was surrounded by his daughter, granddaughter and close family friend.

Marty grew up as one of twenty-eight first cousins on Western Avenue (now Boulevard de Maisonneuve) in Westmount in a vibrant local Irish community which included notable Montreal Irish families such as the Galleries, the O'Briens and the Halls. He attended St. Leo's Academy where the teachers were all Irish with names such as Hanley, Connolly, Healy, O'Hanlon, Shea, Shanahan and Kehoe. He subsequently attended Loyola College and earned his degree in Social Work from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. He worked with Ville Marie Social Services early in his career prior to his twenty-year career as an Executive Search Consultant primarily in the fields of Accounting and Finance running The 500 Selection Services.

Following retirement, Marty joined [Executives Available](#) (EA) in 1997 as a counsellor and coach, having been part of EA as a volunteer since its beginnings in the basement of St. Edmund of Canterbury Church. This organization was founded in 1977 by Father Tom McEntee as a community response to support many local executives and management professionals finding themselves unemployed and having difficulty reintegrating into the workplace. It grew as a self-funded, volunteer group until receiving Federal Government funding in 1997 and subsequently becoming part of Emploi-Quebec and expanding its outreach.

Marty is remembered by his EA colleagues as having a huge heart, a warming smile, an infectious sense of humour, a positive, generous, caring person "who makes you feel better just from talking to him". In a "heart and soul" organization Marty became its heart, soul and joie-de-vivre and it was his passion.

Over the years it is fair to say that he has counselled, guided, mentored and helped thousands of members as they transitioned through very difficult personal circumstances. A measure of Marty's commitment to helping others was the way he continued to support EA members in their career transitions into the last weeks of his life.

If our legacy in life is how we are remembered by others, many of those he helped when they most needed it are remembering him on social media with a deluge of tributes. They cite his passion to help people, his positivity, his generosity with his time and his infectious enthusiasm.

Irish to the core, Marty was very comfortable embracing one important Irish rule: the rules are for other people. He was renowned for his humour and sense of fun from his youth, which he never lost. His advice: "Don't take life too seriously, no-one escapes alive!"

We extend our deepest sympathies to his daughter Coleen, his sons Martin Jr., and Thomas, their spouses, his eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Thank you to the team at the Teresa Dellar Palliative care Residence, NOVA, CLSC Lac St Louis and the Cancer Wellness Centre for your tireless support in making his last days peaceful and comfortable.

Under the current circumstances, there will be no funeral service or visitation but we invite you all to take a moment to remember a time when Marty touched your heart or made you laugh. Cherish that memory.



NÍ FHEICIMID A LEITHÉID ARÍS ANN!

TWO EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES

FÁILTE MÁIRTÍN COILFÉIR

Ba mhaith linn Fáilte Uí Cheallaigh a chur roimh Máirtín Coilféir ag Scoil an Léinn Éireannaigh. Bhí muid ag feitheamh ar Ollamh le Gaeilge le ocht mbliana anuas le moltaí rialtais Québec faoi ról lárnach na Gaeilge a thabhairt chun críche, agus anois, faoi dheireadh thiar thall, tá ár gcuspóir comhlíonta. Guímid gach rath ar Mháirtín agus ar a chuid oibre anseo i gConcordia sna blianta atá romhainn. Tá muid ag súil go mór le bheith ag obair in éindí leis le misiún na scoile a chomhlíonadh agus an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i Montréal, i Québec agus i gCeanada.

Personal Note from Dr. Máirtín Coilféir

I'm a native of the town of Navan, in County Meath, on the east coast of Ireland. Since I first left home to enter university, I've been fascinated, stumped and constantly energised by the Irish language and its various forms of cultural expression. What it means to bear a tradition, the politics of minority languages, how muffled tongues might get heard, how words – spoken or written – impinge on worlds... these are the riddles that have brought me through and beyond my studies and research. It started out with an undergraduate degree in Modern Irish and English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin; then a postgraduate degree in Translation in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth; and finally, a PhD in Modern Irish at Trinity once again. Since then, I've been lucky enough to ponder on those questions as a professor in institutions on both sides of the Atlantic: in the National University of Ireland, Galway; University College, Dublin; the University of Toronto; and now, happily, at Concordia.

So far, I've shared the fruits of my research in publications on translation, violence, community theatre, children's literature, as well as a monograph on the ethics of fiction in the work of the major contemporary prose writer in the Irish language.



WELCOME MÁIRTÍN COILFÉIR

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Máirtín Coilféir to the School of Irish Studies. We have been waiting for eight years for an appointment of an Irish language professor to meet the Quebec Government's requirement for the Major in Irish Studies, and now, at long last, our goal has been achieved. We wish Máirtín every success with his work here in Concordia in the years ahead. We are all looking forward to working with him to fulfill the mission the School and to promote Irish language and cultural studies in Montréal, Québec, and Canada.

Nóta ón Dr. Máirtín Coilféir

Is as an Uaimh, Co. na Mí, ó dhúchas mé. Ón uair a d'fhág mé an baile i mo dhiaidh le dul ar an ollscoil, tá mé bíogtha basctha bith-mheallta ag an nGaeilge agus a cuid cultúr. Cén chaoi le traidisiún a thabhairt ar aghaidh, cén chaoi le polaitíocht na dteangacha mionlaithe a thuiscint, cén chaoi le glór a

thabhairt don íochtarán nó cén chaoi a dtéann focail i bhfeidhm orainn... siod iad na ceisteanna a ghríosaigh chun staidéir is taighde mé an chéad lá riamh. Thosaigh mé amach le bunchéim sa Nua-Ghaeilge is Litríocht an Bhéarla i gColáiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath; ansin thug mé m'aghaidh ar iarchéim in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad; agus ina dhiaidh sin bhain mé PhD sa Nua-Ghaeilge amach i gColáiste na Tríonóide arís. Ó shin i leith, bhí sé d'ádh orm na ceisteanna céanna a chíoradh mar léachtóir in ollscoileanna ar gach aon taobh den aigéan mór: in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh; i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath; in Ollscoil Toronto; agus anois, go deimhin, in Ollscoil Concordia.

Tá torthaí mo chuid taighde le feiceáil i bhfoilseacháin ar ábhair éagsúla: an t-aistriúchán, an foréigean, an drámaíocht phobail, an litríocht do pháistí, agus tá leabhar foilsithe agam le deireanas ar eitic an fhicsin i saothar Alan Titley, mórscribhneoir Gaeilge na linne.

TWO EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES

cont. from page 12

As lived experience and as collaboration with colleagues, answers (or parts of answers) have found expression creatively and editorially too: as short stories and poems in literary journals and anthologies, as organised conferences, edited periodicals and volumes of essays.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know the students, staff and communities of the School of Irish Studies. I know from reputation, merit and acquaintance the excellence that the School takes for its standard and, in the coming years, I'll be doing my best to contribute to that. Among my current projects are two volumes of essays on contemporary writing in Irish; the revision of a 'lost' manuscript from the 1930s that contains an Irish translation of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; an Irish-language detective novel; and a large-scale project on the internationality of the Irish language literary translation tradition. In the classroom, I'm already eager to introduce students to a new method of Irish language learning, as well as the imaginative brilliance of Irish folklore and the technologies of the language's book culture, from vellum to screen. I am excited and very enthusiastic to be joining the School of Irish Studies at Concordia this fall.

seo. Ní leis an scríbhneoireacht acadúil amháin a bhaineann an taighde is an machnamh ar fad, mar sin féin: tá gearrscéalta is dánta foilsithe agam ar irisleabhair thall is abhus, agus bainim sásamh as léann na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn trí chomhdhálacha a eagrú agus bailiúcháin aistí a chur in eagar.

Is mé atá ag súil go mór le aithne a chur ar lucht Scoil an Léinn Éireannaigh, idir mhic léinn, bhaill foirne agus an phobal mór trí chéile. Is maith atá a fhios agam gur obair den scoth a dhéanann an Scoil agus déanfaidh mise mo dhícheall cur leis an obair sin sna blianta atá amach romhainn. Faoi láthair, tá dornán iarann sa tine agam, mar atá, dhá bhailiúchán aistí ar nua-litríocht na Gaeilge a chur in eagar; aistriúchán a rinneadh sna 1930idí ar *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* a réiteach don chló; úrscéal bleachtairéachta a chríochnú; agus togra mór ar aistriú na Gaeilge sa gcomhthéacs domhanda a fhorbairt. Maidir leis an seomra ranga, tá mé ag tnúth leis na mic léinn a chur ag stealladh Gaeilge trí mo mhodh teagaisc féin, le hiontaistí bhéaloideas na hÉireann a phlé leo, agus le háille na lámhscríbhinní is na leabhar a roinnt leo. Ar bís atá mé le bheith ag obair i Scoil an Léinn Éireannaigh an fóimhar beag seo.

SACRED HEART WELCOMES VISITORS – VIRTUALLY

The Sacred Heart School of Montreal held its annual Open House event at its usual time of year, on Tuesday, September 29th, at 9 a.m. and at 5 p.m. There was one major difference this year: it was virtual. Although 2020 brought many changes to how everyone, including schools, must do things, one thing the 159-year-old institution's administration strives to maintain is that Sacred Heart warmth and family-style environment.

Visitors began registering in late August for the Open House, via the high school's website. Each registered family received a link, giving them access to a Zoom meeting during their preferred time slot. Once logged on, prospective families were welcomed by Sacred Heart's Head of School, Shawn O'Donnell, and other administrators. They spoke about the all-girl school's mission and goals, as well as academic expectations, tuition assistance, transportation, and what extracurricular activities the students can expect. Next, participants were shown a virtual tour, featuring a student

tour guide, that highlighted the same areas of the school and conveyed the same sense of warmth as an in-person tour. One of the benefits of attending a live open house event is asking questions directly to parents of current students, alumnae, and staff. This was also possible during the virtual Open House through Q&A sessions held in breakout rooms during the event.

To watch a recording, please contact admissions@sacredheart.qc.ca

There will be further Virtual Q&As throughout the month of October, as well as focused sessions for Grade 12 in November, January and February. Further information is available on the school's [website](https://www.sacredheart.qc.ca) or by contacting the Enrolment Management Coordinator, Stephanie Broadhurst at admissions@sacredheart.qc.ca

You can also book a virtual appointment directly on the [website](https://www.sacredheart.qc.ca).

TWO EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES

JOHNSON CHAIR IN QUEBEC AND CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES

The School of Irish Studies is delighted to announce that Professor Jane McGaughey has been appointed to a five-year term as holder of the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies. We send our hearty congratulations to Professor McGaughey on this prestigious appointment and wish her much success as she embarks on this stage of her career at the School of Irish Studies.

Brief Biography of Professor Jane McGaughey



After completing a BA (Hons) and MA at the University of Toronto, Jane McGaughey received her PhD from Birkbeck College, University of London in 2008. She was chosen as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow to spend a year at the Keough Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame in 2009-10. Appointed as a professor of Irish Diaspora Studies at the School of Irish Studies in 2012, she has since taught a range of courses, including *The Irish in Canada*, *The Irish in Montreal*, and *Rebellions in Ireland and the Canadas*. Among her key publications are: *Violent Loyalties: Manliness, Migration, and the Irish in the Canadas, 1798-1841* (Liverpool University Press, 2020); *Ulster's Men* (McGill-Queens University Press, 2012); and co-editor, *Ireland and Masculinities in History* (Palgrave, 2019). Since 2015, she has served as President of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies.

Personal Statement from Professor McGaughey

I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed to the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies. I know that Professor Ó hAllmhuráin has left an incredible precedent of community outreach and research excellence from his time

as chair and I will endeavour to follow his impressive example.

My first research project as Johnson Chair will be to examine mental illness among Irish migrants and their descendants in nineteenth-century Quebec through cases from the hospital on Grosse Île, the Beauport Lunatic Asylum, l'Hospice St-Jean-de-Dieu at Longue-Pointe, and St John's Asylum at the St-Jean military barracks. For centuries, prejudiced correlations between Irishness and madness thrived in various places around the world, Quebec included. I will investigate how traumatic migratory events such as the cholera epidemics of the 1830s and the Great Irish Famine affected rates of Irish incarceration in Quebec's asylums. In examining this untold chapter in the story of the Irish in Quebec, I hope to highlight new aspects of the province's gendered and social history. I also look forward to increasing the number of graduate students working with me on aspects of the Irish in Quebec, so that we can continue to expand knowledge on the rich contribution of the Irish to the evolution of Quebec over the past three centuries.

In addition to research and archival work, I intend to hold annual community round-tables between academics and the general public to examine current and historical issues for the Irish in Quebec. I want to begin a podcast series highlighting key Irish people and Irish-related events from the province's past, which, even in a COVID-19 world, will still allow the public to engage with the community's rich history and continuing legacy. As with so many aspects of Irish Studies at Concordia, I am grateful to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation whose partnership with Concordia University and the Government of Quebec led to the creation of the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies.

TWO EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES

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Professor Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary achievements of Professor Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin during his tenure as holder of the Johnson Chair over the past eleven years. In that time, as the inaugural holder of this position, Professor Ó hAllmhuráin has conducted extensive research on various aspects of the history of the Irish in Quebec, as well as continuing with research in other areas related to Irish Studies. In addition, he has maintained a high profile in the Irish community and in both the larger English and French communities in Quebec and Canada.

Synopsis of Johnson Chair Achievements, 2010-20

In fulfilling the mission of the Johnson Chair, Professor Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin conducted extensive ethnographic research among Irish francophone communities in rural Québec—from Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine and the Gaspé peninsula in the maritime northeast to Pontiac and the Gatineau Valley in western Québec. A multilingual scholar, musician, broadcaster and filmmaker, he supervised eleven masters, doctoral, and postdoctoral students who secured over \$500,000 from government research agencies in Canada and the European Union. Their research findings were presented at academic conferences in the US, Ireland, France, Italy and Kazakhstan and were published by Oxford University Press, Septentrion, Four Courts, Holitzer Verlag, Lexington and Cork University Press.

Travelling thousands of miles to remote Irish-Québécois communities during the past ten years, Ó hAllmhuráin worked on documentary films, music collections and oral history projects, and was an advisor for regional archives of Irish history and culture throughout Québec. His fieldwork extended Irish diaspora research to transcultural and bilingual communities previously ignored by mainstream scholarship. The apex of his work was the production of *Lost Children of the Carricks*, a trilingual film (French, Irish, English) that traced the tragic journey of an Irish-speaking family from the West of Ireland to rural Québec during the Great Famine. Filmed in Sligo and in the Gaspé, the film deals with shipwreck in the St. Lawrence, cultural integration in the New World, and eventual return to ancestral roots six generations later. Ó hAllmhuráin's film was chosen to represent Ireland and Canada at international film festivals in Europe and North America.

Once again, on behalf of the faculty and students we extend congratulations to Professors McGaughey and Ó hAllmhuráin and wish them much success in their future work at Concordia in the School of Irish Studies.



Professor Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin

Michael Kenneally
Principal, School of Irish Studies
Concordia University

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MCK GRAND CHIEF JOE NORTON DIES AT AGE 70

by Maureen McCormick



Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (MCK) Grand Chief Joseph Tokwiro Norton died in hospital on Friday August 14th, where he had been hospitalized after suffering a fall at his home. His sudden death came as a huge shock to everyone, both to those inside and outside the Indigenous community.

Norton was born and raised in Kahnawake, along with his siblings. He worked as a skilled ironworker prior to entering politics. He was elected to council in 1978 and to the position of Grand Chief in 1982, a position he held until his retirement in 2004. Following 2004 and prior to re-entering council politics in 2015, Norton worked in the private sector, namely in the field of internet technologies. As of 2018, Joe was re-elected once again as Grand Chief, a

position he held until his untimely death.

Many people will remember his leadership during the 1990 Oka crisis, wherein he played a role of key negotiator and gained international prominence.

He took much pride in the modernization of Kahnawake and his many accomplishments include the establishment of the Peacekeepers, the Kateri Memorial Hospital and the Kahnawake Survival School.

He was a dedicated, determined and focused leader, whose life mission was to champion Mohawk Nation interests. As a person, he was humble, gracious and discreet, and always a welcome presence at SPS events. He will be missed!

IN MEMORIAM

IAN FORREST passed away at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Glen Site, on Thursday, June 4th, 2020 at the age of 82. A native of Westmount, Ian attended Roslyn and Westmount Junior & Senior High schools where he made long-lasting friendships and impressed many with his speed and grace in track & field and football.

A BSc Math & Physics graduate of Acadia University, Ian was elected President of the Students Union in 1958 - 1959. He went on to complete an Electrical Engineering degree at the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) following which he returned to his native Quebec and spent a fruitful career in his own consulting business.

Singing and choral music have been central in Ian's life. For several years he sang with the Elgar Choir, served on its Executive Committee and as President. It was during this time that Ian met and married Anne Gaynor Smith. Together they joined the St. Lawrence Choir in 1983.



Anne Forrest, the former editor of Nuacht, predeceased Ian in 2016.

Due to present conditions, a Memorial Service will be scheduled and notice published when pandemic restrictions are lifted. Meanwhile donations in Ian's memory to the charity of your choice can be made.

AR DHEIS DÉ GO RAIBH A ANAM!

YOU PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE

By Ken Quinn

This has been a summer like no other, for all the wrong reasons. We have had to say goodbye to too many friends this summer while not being able to offer in-person condolences or attend funeral services.

I can say I knew Richard since 1992, the year I joined the United Irish Societies of Montreal and the year he was honoured as the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Parade. I did not really know him then. I was a young newbie in the organization. I remember seeing him and Pierrette at several functions I was able to attend and I remember their teenage daughter, Elizabeth and her friend, Jennifer being in tow from time to time. Other than that, I did not know Richard or Pierrette then. Over time that changed, and I am grateful to have known them both.

On August 16th in the morning, Elizabeth sent a message through Facebook advising us that Richard had passed away the previous day. Wanting to learn a little more about Richard, I searched through newspaper archives from across North America. The things I have learned about Richard put a smile on my face.

I knew Richard dabbled in acting because I recalled him talking about learning his lines and having parts in some big-name productions. According to the April 13, 1999 Montreal Gazette, Richard conceived an interactive play with Centaur Theatre's Gordon McCall as a fundraiser for the Theatre. The play, [Finbarr's Final Fling](#), took place in LaSalle at Buffet Sorrento over five nights. Also involved in the play were Jane Skelton and the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers. In December of that year Richard played the Sugar Plum Fairy in a play titled [Merry Millenium: A Millenium Tale](#), another Centaur fundraiser. In 1996 Richard appeared in [My 3 Angels](#) at the Centaur. As I was perusing the newspapers, I came across a January 2000 review in the Los Angeles Times of [Isn't She Great](#), a movie starring Bette Midler and Nathan Lane. Guess who had a part in the movie? That's right. Richard McConomy did. He appears in a photo with Lane, Midler, and Amanda Peet accompanying the article. Most Actors have an IMDb page and Richard is no different. This is where I learned that Richard appeared in three other films, [Heist](#) (2001), [Abandon](#) (2002) and [Swindle](#) (2002).

Richard's involvement in the Irish community spans many organizations. He served as a St. Patrick's Society Director, presided at St. Patrick's Square, was a member of the Erin Sports Association, and served as legal advisor to the United Irish Societies of Montreal, taking on the challenge before he was even called to the bar.

Richard was a former president of the Montreal

Thistle Curling Club, of the St. Laurent Kiwanis, of Centraide Montreal, of United Way Canada, of Catholic Community Services, of Montreal Catholic Counseling Inc., of St. Patrick's

Square Residence, as well as the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex Foundation. Richard also served for a time as a member of the executive of the English Speaking Catholic Council and was involved with the Sacred Heart School of Montreal, where both Pierrette and Elizabeth are alumnae.

In 1996-97 Richard served as Bâtonnier of the Bar of Montreal, adding his name to a long list of lawyers to have served in this capacity. One name of many that stands out is The Right Honourable Richard Wagner P.C., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Then-maitre Wagner was Bâtonnier in 2001-02.

We could go on and on about Richard and everything he did. I am certain there is much he did that we do not know and will never know. In my time working with Richard on the Bell Fibe St. Patrick's Parade broadcast from 2015 to 2017, I can tell you that we shared many laughs. He came prepared, speaking of his parade experiences off the top of his head whereas I planned nervously for weeks and had always a binder chock-full of tidbits about parade participants. I always good-naturedly resented his ease in front of the camera but aspired to being as comfortable as he was. Afterall, he was an actor, right?

Richard took sick in July and was gone within a short time. Although he did not succumb to COVID, sadly, COVID robbed the community of being able to get together with Richard and Pierrette since before March. We did not get to see them at the Erin Sports Breakfast, the SPS Luncheon, the Parade (they continued to be volunteers) or at countless other functions.

We extend our deepest condolences to Pierrette, Liz and Tino, and the entire family. We know Richard has already passed through the gates and is laughing it up with those who went before us. We will see him again soon enough.



IRISH DANCING SCENE

By Pat Short

YOUNG ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE (QUEBEC)



The Young Academy hopes to host their second Feis on October 24th, 2020 at John Abbott College. Entries will be limited to the numbers permitted by Santé Québec. The competition will be a Blackout Feis, which means dancers will leave their costumes and wigs at home and will compete in all black outfits.

The academy would love to be able to invite the community to attend but because of Covid-19 they will be limited to the numbers they can admit and dancer +1 is where they must start.

The Young Academy has recently resumed its in-person classes after an exceptionally long time off doing everything remotely. They have taken the protocol for safety very seriously and have put a cap on the number of dancers allowed in class, since dancers may only dance two at a time with the floor separated so they never cross. All their dancers must always wear masks even when dancing. This is exceedingly difficult to do and their teacher commends the dancers for their cooperation and hard work!



Janice Young taking protocols seriously

The school has taken the opportunity to take part in the IDTANA traditional set project and is hosting grade exams for the dancers.

It has been an unusual start to the dance year. Some have chosen to continue class remotely and others are attending in-person classes. Either way, everyone is excited to be able to dance! Covid has taken a lot from us but it certainly has not taken our passion for Irish Dance!

Here is their new website so you can check them out. www.youngacademyirishdance.com

Email: youngirishdance@hotmail.com

BERNADETTE SHORT SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING



Complying with the ever-changing levels and laws in Quebec, the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing (B.S.S.I.D.) managed to run a summer camp, partially in the Kirkland Studio and partly in the grounds of the Kirkland Recreation Centre. This proved a great success as the dancers were able to work at their passion, Irish dancing. At the beginning, the teachers recognized exceptional disappointments amongst the competitive dancers. The World's were cancelled. **Montreal Feis had to change its date to November 15th.** All Feiseanna in Canada were cancelled. The International border was closed. Nothing to work for. Because of this the school engaged the services of a sport's psychologist to give a webinar to the school over the Zoom platform. This was an enormous success at the time and was joined by over one hundred (100) dancers, parents, and teachers.

Classes continued on ZOOM for members in outlying areas. Church halls and school facilities continue to be unavailable and the school has located new facilities in NDG, Chateauguay, Shannon, and Plattsburgh.

Enquiries: Bernadette@shortschoolirishdance.com 514-977-7870



THE MORAN ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE

Eileen advises that she has not recommenced lessons in the Deux Montagnes area.

moran.irish.dancers@gmail.com

MARIE-CLAUDE ROUSSEAU



Marie-Claude advises that classes have resumed, in Quebec on Saturdays and in Verdun on Wednesdays.

Enquiries: M.c.rousseau@videotron.ca



"Dancing fun indoors at Summer Camp". Photo courtesy of Kelsey Crone.



"No blues at Summer Camp". Photo courtesy of Meaghan Kilmartin.

MAYBE SMALLER BUT STILL STANDING IN 2020

By Fergus Keyes

Of course, most events in 2020 were cancelled, or postponed, due to the virus scare and this included the annual United Irish Societies (UIS) St. Patrick's Day Parade, as well as The Annual Walk to the Black Rock.

However, it should be noted that in addition to St. Patrick's Society Ball, and although on a much smaller scale, a couple of other events did take place in 2020.

THE PARADE

On March 15th, 2020, a St. Patrick's Day Parade did indeed take place in the City of Montreal, in the district of Point St. Charles.

This parade was organized within the guidelines that related to the virus as they existed on March 15th. At that point, for example, masks were neither encouraged nor mandatory, although there was mention of social distancing. And, since the suggestion was to limit outdoor gatherings to fifty people or less, this parade was not publicized.



However, some thirty-five people did get together and marched along Wellington Street, and other smaller streets in The Point. We had some spectators on the sidewalks and on their balconies cheering us on; and most cars that passed honked their horns and gave us a "thumbs up" of support.

Pat Boyle was designated as our Grand Marshall but unfortunately due to a serious illness that would take his life a few months later, he was not able to attend. But we did carry a sign with his name, and he was very pleased about this recognition. We also had our own Queen Leila, who at five years old, was likely the youngest Queen in any St. Patrick's Day Parade.



MAYBE SMALLER BUT STILL STANDING IN 2020

Cont. from page 20

Although this small parade was definitely not on the scale of the large annual Montreal St. Patrick's Parade organized by the UIS – it was indeed a parade; and it did take place in Montreal in 2020. It might even be considered for parade continuity in Montreal and similar to smaller parade events that seem to have taken place in Griffintown during the First World War.

THE WALK TO THE STONE



As most Irish Montrealers know, on the last Sunday of May, for more than one hundred years, the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) have organized a Walk to the Black Rock, which again was cancelled this year.

However, Victor Boyle, National Canadian President of the AOH, felt that some event still had to take place at the Black Rock to remember the more than six thousand (6,000) Irish people who died and were buried in the area in 1847, as well as, to honour the many Montrealers of every language, religion and

heritage that went to the fever sheds to provide these victims with help and comfort. (Many of these caregivers also gave their lives in this great humanitarian effort.)

So, on Sunday, May 31st, 2020, Victor invited his fellow Board members from the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation to join him for a small ceremony at the Stone. In addition to Victor, there were Lynn Doyle, Paula Phelan (representing Scott Phelan, who was not available to attend), and myself. Victor brought along a wreath to place at the stone and said a prayer of remembrance in this very small but moving ceremony.

The Montreal Irish community can be assured that although the normal Walk to the Stone was canceled, these victims from Black '47 were still not forgotten this year.

We wish to thank the following who contributed articles and/or photos to this issue of NUACHT:

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Kelsey Crone
Janice Young

Marion Mulvenna
President Michael D. Higgins

Caitlin Moynan
Pamela McGovern
Martina McLean

Maureen McCormick

Carol McCormick
Michael Kenneally
Dave Dubeau

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CAITLIN MOYNAN - PERFECT DAY!

At 4 p.m., September 12, 2020, Caitlin Moynan, SPS Board Director, Youth Wing, married Thomas Guay at Chalet des Érables in Saint-Anne-des-Plaines.

The ecstatic couple planned this day two years ago. COVID did complicate things. Then, about two months before the big day, they found out that the wedding could go ahead. Yes, there were certain conditions such as everyone needed to wear a mask when standing up in the reception room, they needed to provide hand sanitizer and no dancing was allowed. Caitlin told us "I was upset by this condition but because of physical distancing, we were able to get the biggest and nicest room with no extra charge! Even with the uncertainty at the beginning and the conditions, it still ended up being better than we could have imagined! It was an absolutely perfect day."

Congratulations to the happy couples from everyone at St. Patrick's Society!



In the incredible, outdoor ceremony area, Caitlin Moynan and Thomas Guay are wed.

KNOWLEDGEABLE IN NEW TECH

Pamela McGovern and **Daniel Benay** were married in Austin, Quebec before a small group of family members and several others via the Zoom platform.

Although they had originally intended to have a small ceremony in April, 2020, their plans changed with the onset of the pandemic. Little did they know when they made their plans that they were to become knowledgeable in new technology. They were also fortunate with the weather as it turned out to be a beautiful day and their short reception could be held partially outside where their guests could feel comfortable while physically distanced.

They remain thankful to the Mayor of Austin, Lisette Maillé. They are also delighted that many of their guests made contributions to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation as a gift.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS CONT.



Tourism Ireland's Sandra Moffatt and Dana Welch assume new roles

On September 14, 2020 Tourism Ireland announced two new appointments to its Toronto and New York offices.

Dana Welch, who led Tourism Ireland's operations in Canada as Marketing Manager since 2014, has been promoted to Vice President Marketing, USA. She will be relocating from Toronto to lead the Trade & Industry and Publicity Teams in New York.

Sandra Moffatt has been appointed as Tourism Ireland's new Marketing Manager, Canada. Moffatt first joined the organization in 2018 as Trade & Digital Executive and has previous digital marketing experience gained in an agency environment.

Commenting on both new appointments, Alison Metcalfe, Executive Vice President North America & Australia, said: "I wish both Dana and Sandra every success in their new roles and look forward to working with them as we develop a new recovery strategy and activate an innovative plan to re-start Irish tourism from North America in the coming months."

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP TOM

St. Patrick's Society would like to congratulate Bishop Thomas Dowd on his 50th birthday, September 11, 2020.

He also celebrated his 9th anniversary of episcopal ordination on September 9, 2020.



SAVE THE DATE, JUNE 15, 2021 - SPS GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Dave Dubeau

For the first time in 25 years one of the three realities of life after death and taxes, St. Patrick's Society Golf Tournament did not take place. Despite these difficult times, the society is committed to celebrating the 25th anniversary tournament on June 15, 2021.

In a perfect world, the format would be the same as previous years. Unfortunately, one of the lessons learned in the last six months is that our world is far from perfect. To that end we are examining alternatives that would ensure the event is enjoyable but most importantly safe for all participants.



More specifics will be provided in subsequent issues of Nuacht.

We would hope members of the community will support this event. It is especially important this year as funds generated from this event are needed to support the charitable, educational and cultural growth in our community.

So stay well everyone and save the date, June 15, 2021.





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